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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing upon instructions from my Government to draw your attention to the letter dated 3 May 1999 of Ambassador Ivan Šimonović, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/501). The letter is replete with deliberate obfuscation, aimed at using the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to decry my country and its genuine efforts to bring the negotiations on the disputed territorial issue of Prevlaka to an early and successful end. It is yet another attempt by the Republic of Croatia to prejudge the position of the Council on the final solution of the issue.

Instead of promoting good-neighbourly relations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the agreement on normalization of bilateral relations, the Republic of Croatia has taken a hostile position towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by extending open support to, and taking active part in, the NATO aggression exemplified by the ceding of its airspace to NATO for the aerial bombardment of my country. That position of hostility is manifest also in the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia.

There is no doubt that the position of the Republic of Croatia is determined by the political expediency of "making propaganda hay" out of the ongoing situation and affirming its interests in the Security Council and beyond. This all the more so inasmuch as the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia was sent to the President only following the display by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of good will and exemplary cooperation, enabling the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) to continue its work in accordance with the United Nations mandate, which was recognized by the United Nations Secretariat. Conversely, the Republic of Croatia has displayed no such will and cooperation and continues to violate the regime mandated by the United Nations in both the "blue" and "yellow" zones, relevant resolutions of the Council and the agreement on normalization of relations calling for a negotiated solution of the disputed issue of Prevlaka, which is documented in the regular reports of UNMOP and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I should like to point out that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has resolved to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, to which it is entitled by the Charter of the United Nations. Notwithstanding the circumstances, it continues to fulfil its obligations and remains committed to finding a negotiated solution to the disputed territorial issue of Prevlaka and to promoting overall relations of good-neighbourly cooperation on the principles of full equality and strict abidance by the basic goals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Republic of Croatia would render a significant contribution to the cause of peace and to a peaceful solution of the question in dispute if it ceased participation in the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a sovereign State Member of the United Nations, and condemned this as an example of a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the international legal order, one without precedent in the recent history of the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.